

adults in ordinary social life ? What light do they throw upon the social characteristics or private difficulties of normal and abnormal adults ?

It is, however, very difficult on any merely descriptive approach to understand all the behaviour of children here (including that to be quoted incidentally in the text later on). Taken as it stands, much of this descriptive material is unintelligible and carries no hint of its genetic significance. It raises many problems which call for further evidence from other sources for their solution.

Such further evidence, and an interpretative theory which suffices to bring order and meaning into our data, is offered us by psycho-analytic studies of the *unconscious* mental life of children and adults.

That theory, which serves to make these records intelligible both in detail and as a whole, is the fruit of Freud's epoch-making researches into the technique of studying the human mind.

Since Freud himself first opened our eyes to the reality of unconscious mental processes and the whole inner world of the psychic life, he and an increasing number of technically trained analysts have carried out a vast amount of research into the psychology of individuals of all types, normal, neurotic and psychotic. In the microscopic study of individual histories which psycho-analysis makes possible, every detail of the personal and social relations at each phase of development in the history of the individual is worked out from the inside. The particular distributions of mental energy in relation to instinctual trends, and the characteristic mechanisms for dealing with mental conflict, are in each case traced and evaluated.

The way in which, for example, the child's relation to his first teachers is intimately influenced by the special colouring

of his previous relation with his parents ; • the
way his
attitudes to playmates at school, and friends in
later life,
reflect his earliest conflicts about possible rivals
in the home ;
the way his feelings and phantasies about father
and mother
are taken up into his adult sentiments about
home and
country and government; the cross-currents of
his later
relations to men and women, to his own
children or his
parents' parents ; the way in which his earliest
play interests
become elaborated or deflected into the
sustained pursuits